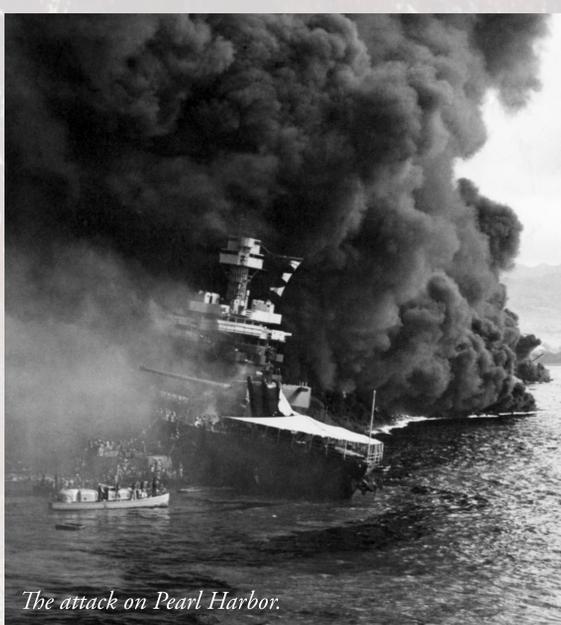




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# BATTLE OF MIDWAY

## U.S. Involvement in World War II



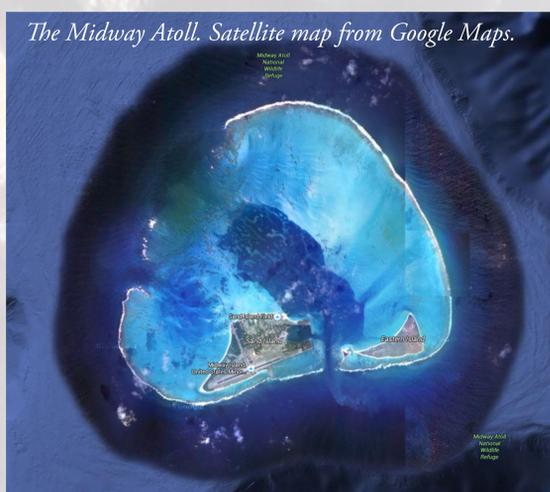
*The attack on Pearl Harbor.*

World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The U.S. remained neutral until December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The Japanese employed six carriers to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor; however, none of the U.S. carriers were present at Pearl Harbor during the assault.

### PEARL HARBOR: BY THE NUMBERS

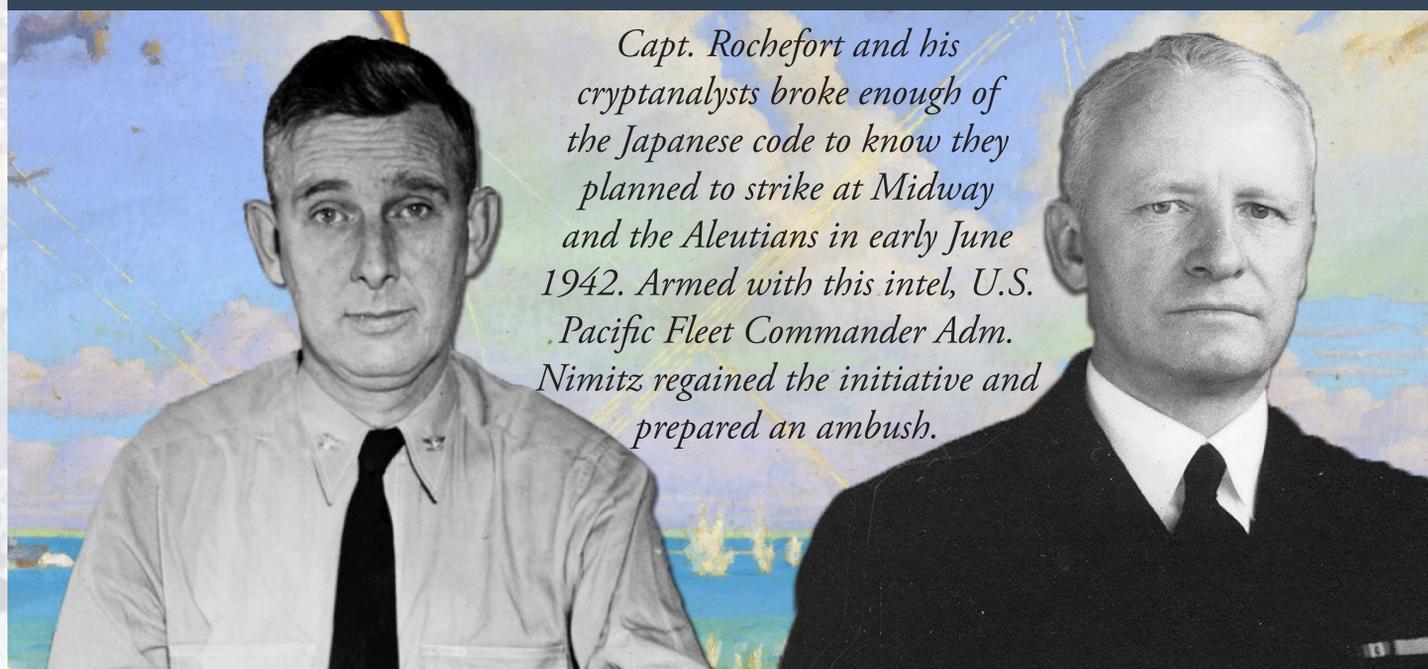
KILLED IN ACTION	TOTAL LOSS SHIPS	RETURNED TO SERVICE	CARRIERS LOST
<b>2,008</b> U.S. NAVY  <b>218</b> U.S. ARMY  <b>109</b> U.S. MARINES  <b>68</b> CIVILIANS	<b>3</b>  USS ARIZONA (BB 39)  USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37)  USS UTAH (AG 16)	<b>17</b>  <b>5</b> SHIPS SUNK, RAISED, AND REPAIRED  <b>12</b> SHIPS DAMAGED AND REPAIRED OR REBUILT	<b>0</b>  NONE OF THE SEVEN U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WERE AT PEARL HARBOR DURING THE ASSAULT.

The U.S. declared war against Japan on December 8, 1941. After several months of expansion, the Japanese Combined Fleet turned its sights on Midway, a small Pacific-based atoll, which then served as a U.S. sentry to Hawaii, refueling station, and landing point. The Japanese plan assumed the Pacific Fleet would arrive too late to defend Midway, but U.S. forces were waiting for them at "Point Luck."



*The Midway Atoll. Satellite map from Google Maps.*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEL



*Capt. Rochefort and his cryptanalysts broke enough of the Japanese code to know they planned to strike at Midway and the Aleutians in early June 1942. Armed with this intel, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Nimitz regained the initiative and prepared an ambush.*

**CAPT. JOSEPH J. ROCHEFORT**  
U.S. CRYPTANALYST

**ADM. CHESTER W. NIMITZ**  
PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER